

January 28, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

I live and work in a Midwestern state that is constantly battling to keep our citizens here to work and raise their families. One of the most important incentives we have to offer is a growing technology industry, which we affectionately refer to as "Silicorn Valley."


I've watched with much interest the progress of the Justice Department's suit against Microsoft. I understand the issues involved, but more importantly, I've felt the impact of the lawsuit on my own pocketbook. As a young investor, I have a portion of my retirement savings invested in the technology sector and have watched my returns deflate along with the sinking economy and can't help but assume that this lawsuit has some bearing on my poor returns.

Common sense tells me that the quicker we can get this issue resolved, the better off all Americans will be, particularly those Americans whose livelihood is directly dependent on the technology industry and those whose retirement savings could use a shot in the arm.

Please give your utmost consideration to the settlement before you. An approval of the settlement will go far in jump-starting the economy and setting America back on the road to prosperity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan Severino

Office of the Speaker
Iowa House of Representatives
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319